WYOMING

VOL. 22 NO. 6 NOV. 1985

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Aug. '85	Sept. '85
Labor Force	257,366	250,745
Employment	241,849	236,687
Unemployment	15,517	14,058
Rate (Raw)	6.0	5.6
Rate (S.A.)	6.8	6.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.13	$13.68
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	45.0	44.2
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.0	7.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$11.93	$12.04
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.3	43.8
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	323.5	324.5
Denver (Bimonthly)		358.0
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.4	+3.2

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of* Trends *be sure to see these articles:

- Wyoming Ranks First
- Rocky Mountain Nonfarm Personal Income
- Nationally, Working Women Increasing
- Wyoming's Full-Time vs. Part-Time

THE NATIONAL SCENE

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that in the U.S. unemployment totaled 8.3 million out of a civilian labor force of 115.8 million in September, seasonally adjusted. The unemployment rate, at 7.1 percent, was about the same as in August which recorded a rate of 7.0 percent. In September the average duration of unemployment was 15.5 weeks.

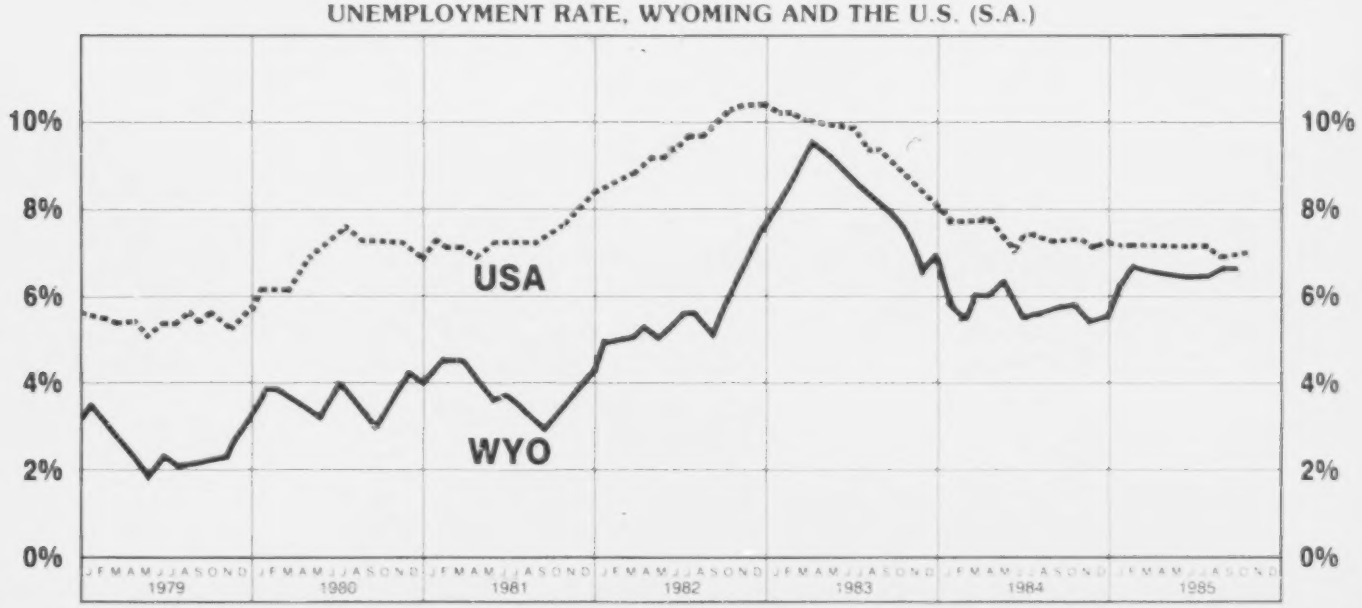
OCTOBER RATE REMAINS AT 7.1 PERCENT FOR U.S.

The recently released national unemployment rate for October remained the same as in September — 7.1 percent seasonally adjusted.

IN WYOMING

Wyoming's unemployment rate for September, at 5.6 percent, was down seasonally from the August rate of 6.0 percent and was the lowest rate recorded thus far in 1985. Preliminary data indicates that unemployment will start its seasonal upturn in October.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

The September rate compares to 4.7 percent a year ago. The highest September rate on record was 6.9 percent in 1983 and the lowest was 2.3 percent in 1979.

The Wyoming seasonally adjusted September rate of 6.7 percent continued slightly under the U.S. rate of 7.1 percent.

The Wyoming labor force continues to remain stagnant: down over one percent on the average, statewide, through the third quarter of this year as compared to the same nine months in 1984. September's Wyoming labor force, at 250,700, indicated a monthly downturn of almost three percent and continued to lose workers on an annual basis - almost four percent as compared to September 1984.

COUNTY TRENDS

Fremont County continues to have both the highest unemployment, 8.3 percent, and the greatest annual labor force loss in the state. Albany County, with a labor force dominated by state and local government employees, had the lowest unemployment, at 3.3 percent. Niobrara County had the fewest jobseekers - 116 unemployed.

Only two counties indicated substantial annual labor force growth in September. Lincoln and Sublette counties were both up over 16 percent in construction related employment gains.

NEIGHBORING STATES

The most current rates available for Wyoming's surrounding states are unrevised, not seasonally adjusted August rates. Montana (6.5) and Idaho (6.8) had higher rates when compared to Wyoming's August rate of 6.0. The remaining states of Utah, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota had lower rates of 5.1, 5.4, 4.9 and 4.3 percent respectively. West Virginia, at 12.4 percent, had the highest rate in the United States and New Hampshire had the lowest rate at 3.4 percent.

WYOMING FIRST QUARTER 1985 WAGES UP 1.3 PERCENT

Recently compiled employer contribution data indicates an annual gain of 1.3 percent in the average weekly wage for the first quarter of 1985. The all industry average of $352 a week, about $18,300 a year, included over 16,600 firms employing over 182,800 workers covered by the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance law. The national inflation rate, consumer price index, was up 3.6 percent annually during the same time frame.

Back in the "good old days," wages were up 12.2 percent annually in 1979, 12.6 percent in 1980, and 10.3 percent in 1981. In 1982 the annual gain had dropped to 4.8 percent and in 1983 the average weekly wage, at $341, was down 1.5 percent from 1982. Among the 50 states, Wyoming, which had the only annual pay decline in 1983, was just 1.7 percent above the national average. In 1984 the average weekly wage, at $349, in Wyoming was up 2.5 percent annually. In 1984 Wyoming ranked 14th among the states and had about the same average weekly wage as the U.S. average of $353.

In the first quarter of 1985 Campbell County had the highest average weekly wage of $455, or about $23,700 a year, followed by Sweetwater County at $439 a week. Teton County, at $235, had the lowest average weekly wage among the counties.

WYOMING RANKS FIRST

Wyoming's nonfarm personal income increased 3.1 percent in the second quarter of this year ranking it first in the nation. Payroll increases in manufacturing, construction, private service and government were all above the national average. In fact, Wyoming's construction payroll represented the largest increase in the country.

All Rocky Mountain states, except Montana and Idaho, reflected Wyoming's growth. As a whole, the Rocky Mountain region showed a 1.2 percent increase in nonfarm personal income, 0.1 percent above the national average.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NONFARM PERSONAL INCOME

Percent Change

		Payroll						
	Nonfarm Personal Income	Manufacturing	Construction	Mining	Private Service	Government	Index % Change US=100	Rank
Rocky Mountain	1.2	0.2	0.9	1.4	1.9	2.6	109	—
Wyoming	3.1	4.2	16.6	0.8	3.4	5.7	282	1
Utah	1.3	2.5	3.6	-10.9	2.3	3.3	118	9
Colorado	1.2	0.2	0.2	- 0.7	2.0	2.2	109	14
Idaho	0.7	3.8	5.7	1.7	1.8	1.1	64	35
Montana	0.1	- 0.7	- 6.5	0.3	0.5	1.6	9	48

NATIONALLY, WORKING WOMEN INCREASING

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of working women in the U.S. rose by 870,000 between the first and second quarters of 1984. There were 46.1 million women with jobs during the second quarter of the year, 2.5 million more than at the same time in 1983.

Overall, 54 percent of all women now participate in the labor force nationally. Sixty-eight percent of women 25 to 54 are now working and 71.3 percent of all employed women are working full-time.

Six out of every 10 mothers with preschool or school-age children are in the labor force. A record 19.5 million women with children under 18 including 19.5 million whose youngest children are under six, are working or looking for work.

The Wyoming 1984 annual average saw 58.4 percent of women participating in the labor force with 55.3 percent being employed. This compares to 82.5 percent of men in the labor force and 76.7 percent of them employed. In the U.S., women will account for nearly two-thirds of the labor force growth from 1982 to 1995.

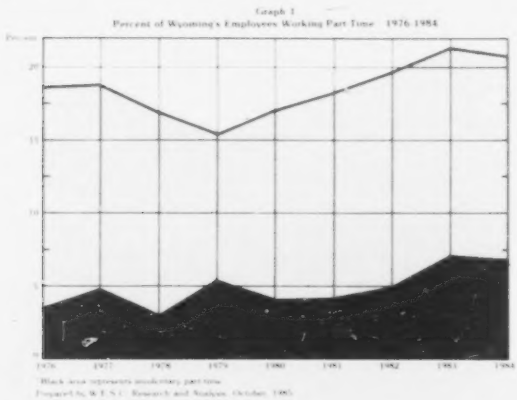
WYOMING'S FULL-TIME VS. PART-TIME

The quality of a person's job is an important indicator of economic well-being, perhaps as important as employment itself. Unemployment rates alone cannot provide a complete picture of economic health, since a person is officially counted as "employed" if he or she works during the survey week (the calendar week that contains the 12th of the month). Consequently, it is important to consider the full-time and part-time status of those employed.

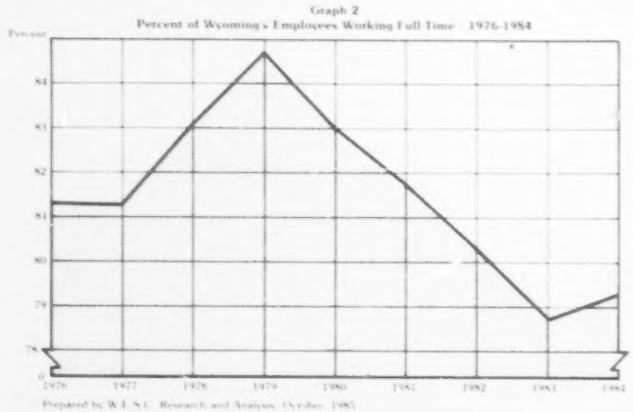
A significant trend has emerged in Wyoming during the 1980's. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the percentage of part-time workers has continued to grow since 1979, except during 1984, which saw a small decline of about one-half percent. See Graph 1. More important, is that of those part-time workers, an increasing number are involuntary part-time. Involuntary part-time workers are those who have their hours cut to less than 34 due to economic reasons. The black area of Graph 1 represents the percentage of involuntary part-time workers.

Graph 2 shows the number of full-time workers declining since 1979. It also shows a bottoming out in 1983 when the recession hit Wyoming. During poor economic conditions employers cut hours and benefits, and many workers are left with part-time work.

It appears that the trend has begun to reverse itself in 1984, however, the percentage of full-time versus part-time is not at levels previously experienced in 1982, and it looks as though Wyoming's employers are enjoying the lower costs and greater flexibility of part-time employees.



Graph 1
Percent of Wyoming's Employees Working Part Time - 1976-1984



Graph 2
Percent of Wyoming's Employees Working Full Time - 1976-1984

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS SECOND QUARTER 1985

	All Items	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Transp.	Health Care	Misc.
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	30%
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities:							
Casper	101.5	104.7	91.1	96.3	98.2	112.6	108.0
Evanston	104.8	104.6	107.7	91.6	100.1	105.6	109.4
Neighboring Cities:							
Billings, MT	105.5	110.5	119.0	85.2	96.1	113.9	102.5
Denver, CO	108.9	105.0	136.8	75.1	110.4	111.1	101.9
Omaha, NE	95.7	94.3	92.8	96.5	93.6	90.3	100.4
Rapid City, SD	96.1	105.6	91.0	86.0	97.5	110.8	94.2
Salt Lake City, UT	101.7	100.6	97.9	95.3	102.2	103.2	107.1
Twin Falls, ID	97.1	100.2	94.4	91.6	98.7	104.9	96.8
Highest U.S. City	139.2 Anchorage AK	134.0 Anchorage AK	222.5 San Francisco CA	175.3 New York NY	132.6 San Diego CA	183.4 Anchorage AK	132.1 Anchorage AK
Lowest U.S. City	89.2 Gadsen AL	88.6 Akron OH	70.7 Gadsen AL	52.5 Tacoma WA	77.8 Asheville NC	76.8 Gleno Falls NY	88.6 Canton OH

Source: ACCRA* American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
September 1985	324.5	309.9	353.8	267.7	209.6	319.7	408.3
Annual % Change	3.2	1.9	3.6	6.1	2.6	1.9	6.6

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
September 1985	320.5	309.3	347.2	266.8	208.7	321.1	406.3
Annual % Change	2.7	1.8	3.1	6.0	2.7	1.6	6.6

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	SEP 1985 [1]	AUG 1985 [1]	SEP 1984 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	250,745	257,366	260,386	- 2.6	- 3.7
Unemployment	14,058	15,517	12,277	- 9.4	14.5
Employed Labor Force	236,687	241,849	248,109	- 2.1	- 4.6
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)	195,600	195,600	199,499	0.0	- 2.0
b. Agriculture [3]	16,170	16,170	16,469	0.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	5.6% 6.7%*	6.0% 6.8%*	4.7% 5.7%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.9% 7.1%*	6.9% 7.0%*	7.1% 7.4%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) [4]	1.5%	1.6%	1.2%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 604.66	$ 590.85	$ 565.48	2.3	6.9
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	45.0	43.7	- 1.8	1.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.68	$ 13.13	$ 12.94	4.2	5.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	14,221	16,040	11,082	- 11.3	28.3
a. Initial	2,160	2,244	1,580	- 3.7	36.7
Weeks Compensated	10,383	13,882	8,432	- 25.2	23.1
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,585,087	$ 2,072,430	$ 1,114,231	- 23.5	42.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 151.43	$ 148.52	$ 131.94	2.0	14.8
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,842	4,614	3,565	- 16.7	7.8
Non-Ag. Openings Received	3,927	5,603	4,048	- 29.9	3.0
Non-Ag. Placements	3,307	3,973	3,492	- 16.8	- 5.3
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 527.35	$ 516.57	$ 515.68	2.1	2.3
Average Weekly Hours	43.8	43.3	44.0	1.2	- 0.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.04	$ 11.93	$ 11.72	0.9	2.7
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	324.5	323.5	314.5	0.3	3.2
Producer Prices, All Commodities	305.8	307.2	309.3	- 0.5	- 1.1
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	309.9	309.7	304.2	0.1	1.9

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	SEP 1985	AUG 1985	SEP 1984	%CHANGE AUG-SEP	%CHANGE SEP-SEP	SEP 1985	AUG 1985	SEP 1984	SEP 1985	AUG 1985	SEP 1984
Statewide	250,745	257,366	260,386	- 2.6	- 3.7	14,058	15,517	12,277	5.6	6.0	4.7
Albany	14,450	14,355	15,485	0.7	- 6.7	475	557	460	3.3	3.9	3.0
Big Horn	4,918	4,866	5,231	1.1	- 6.0	340	361	259	6.9	7.4	5.0
Campbell	18,960	19,694	19,204	- 3.7	- 1.3	1,136	1,199	809	6.0	6.1	4.2
Carbon	9,329	9,401	10,071	- 0.8	- 7.4	592	631	421	6.3	6.7	4.2
Converse	7,312	7,436	7,556	- 1.7	- 3.2	493	579	374	6.7	7.8	5.0
Crook	2,907	2,852	2,979	1.9	- 2.4	202	157	108	6.9	5.5	3.6
Fremont	16,302	16,566	18,045	- 1.6	- 9.7	1,348	1,607	1,338	8.3	9.7	7.4
Goshen	6,787	6,771	7,078	0.2	- 4.1	294	316	326	4.3	4.7	4.6
Hot Springs	2,809	2,794	3,016	0.5	- 6.9	121	146	112	4.3	5.2	3.7
Johnson	3,795	3,933	3,933	- 3.5	- 3.5	165	167	92	4.3	4.2	2.3
Laramie	33,763	35,172	34,899	- 4.0	- 3.3	1,565	1,894	1,448	4.6	5.4	4.1
Lincoln	7,786	7,675	6,706	1.4	16.1	451	510	305	5.8	6.6	4.6
Natrona	37,476	38,347	38,955	- 2.3	- 3.8	2,262	2,571	2,035	6.0	6.7	5.2
Niobrara	1,693	1,602	1,808	5.7	- 6.4	116	112	84	6.8	7.0	4.7
Park	14,912	16,473	15,939	- 9.5	- 6.4	698	759	565	4.7	4.6	3.5
Platte	4,291	4,154	4,791	3.3	- 10.4	285	332	283	6.6	8.0	5.9
Sheridan	11,346	11,721	12,253	- 3.2	- 7.4	725	762	847	6.4	6.5	6.9
Sublette	3,024	2,933	2,590	3.1	16.8	176	109	81	5.8	3.7	3.1
Sweetwater	20,355	20,311	20,475	0.2	- 0.6	1,214	1,237	1,117	6.0	6.1	5.5
Teton	8,728	10,221	8,691	- 14.6	0.4	319	295	259	3.7	2.9	3.0
Uinta	11,000	11,088	11,295	- 0.8	- 2.6	601	656	614	5.5	5.9	5.4
Washakie	5,222	5,399	5,530	- 3.3	- 5.6	267	358	199	5.1	6.6	3.6
Weston	3,579	3,603	3,856	- 0.7	- 7.2	212	202	140	5.9	5.6	3.6

The ESC wishes to stress that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about one year. On an annual average basis, the accuracy of these estimates may vary from the actual figures by as much as eight percent, plus or minus.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	SEP 1985[2]	AUG 1985[3]	SEP 1984	AUG 1985	SEP 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to SEP 1985	to SEP 1985
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	204.0	205.5	202.8	- 0.7	0.6
Manufacturing	8.6	8.7	8.8	- 1.1	- 2.3
Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.5	- 2.3	- 6.7
Nondurable Goods	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	195.4	196.8	194.0	- 0.7	0.7
Mining	26.3	27.1	26.9	- 3.0	- 2.2
Contract Construction	11.6	12.3	15.1	- 5.7	- 23.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	15.0	15.3	15.8	- 2.0	- 5.1
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	- 9.1
Transportation except Railroads	5.7	5.9	5.8	- 3.4	- 1.7
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.4	6.7	- 1.6	- 6.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.4	44.3	45.1	- 2.0	- 3.8
Wholesale Trade	9.0	9.1	9.0	- 1.1	0.0
Retail Trade	34.3	35.1	36.1	- 2.3	- 5.0
Food Stores	5.0	5.1	5.0	- 2.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.2	6.4	6.4	- 3.1	- 3.1
Eating & Drinking Places	11.1	11.3	12.1	- 1.8	- 8.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Services	38.7	40.6	33.6	- 4.7	15.2
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	2.0	0.0	10.0
Medical & Other Health Services	6.4	6.3	6.3	1.6	1.6
Government	52.4	49.2	49.5	6.5	5.9
Federal Government	9.3	9.3	7.3	0.0	27.4
State & Local Government	43.0	39.9	42.3	7.8	1.7
State Government	12.8	12.4	12.5	3.2	2.4
Local Government	30.3	27.5	29.8	10.2	1.7

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	SEP 1985[2]	AUG 1985[3]	SEP 1984	AUG 1985	SEP 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to SEP 1985	to SEP 1985
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.7	33.8	34.5	- 0.3	- 2.3
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.7	0.8	14.3	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.5	0.4	0.4	25.0	25.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	32.2	32.4	33.2	- 0.6	- 3.0
Mining	4.6	4.8	5.7	- 4.2	- 19.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.2	4.3	5.2	- 2.3	- 19.2
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.4	0.5	0.5	- 20.0	- 20.0
Contract Construction	2.9	2.9	2.5	0.0	16.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.0	2.1	2.1	- 4.8	- 4.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.1	9.2	9.3	- 1.1	- 2.2
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.4	- 2.8	2.9
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	5.9	0.0	- 5.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	- 5.9
Services	5.8	5.8	5.9	0.0	- 1.7
Government	6.2	6.0	6.0	3.3	3.3
Federal Government	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	- 28.6
State & Local Government	5.7	5.5	5.3	3.6	7.5
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.2	30.6	30.4	- 1.3	- 0.7
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.8	29.3	29.1	- 1.7	- 1.0
Contract Construction	1.3	1.4	1.5	- 7.1	- 13.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.3	3.3	3.7	0.0	- 10.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.2	7.4	7.5	- 2.7	- 4.0
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.3	6.4	6.6	- 1.6	- 4.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.6	5.2	- 5.4	1.9
Government	10.0	9.9	9.5	1.0	5.3
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.4	0.0	12.5
State & Local Government	7.3	7.2	7.1	1.4	2.8

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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